

SMALL BUSINESS & AGRICULTURE REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT OMBUDSMAN OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL OMBUDSMAN

REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT FAIRNESS PROGRAM

MEETING SUMMARY REPORT FEBRUARY 25, 2002 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

A **Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Board Hearing** was held on February 25, 2002 at the Wells Fargo Bank Building in Albuquerque, New Mexico – Region VI.

Total Attendance: 88

Congressional Representation in Attendance: 6

- U.S. Representative Heather Wilson
- Jane Altwies Representative from Congresswoman Wilson's office
- Peg Hurley-Shepard Representative from Congresswoman Wison's office
- Joyce M. Pullen Representative from Senator Domenici's office
- Joe Trujillo Representative from Senator Domenici's office
- Sarah Cobb Representative from Congressman Udall's office

SBA Personnel: 8

- Michael L. Barrera National Ombudsman
- Veronica I. Miranda
 Counsel to the National Ombudsman
- Joseph O. Montes Region VI Regional Administrator
- Anthony J. McMahon
 New Mexico District Office Director

- Edward Cadena New Mexico District Office Deputy Director
- Susan S. Chavez
 New Mexico District Office Economic Development Specialist
- Carlos G. Mendoza
 El Paso District Office Director

Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Board Members in Attendance: 2

- Frederick Peralta Taos, NM
- Wali Caradine Little Rock, AR

Federal Agencies in Attendance: 12

- IRS
- IRS/Taxpayer Advocate Service
- DOL
- DOL/OSHA
- DOL/Wage and Hour
- DOL/MSHA
- CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)
- EPA
- USDA/FSIS
- GSA
- DOI/Bureau of Land Management
- EEOC
- INS
- DOE
- Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Sandia National Laboratory

Number of Testifiers: 10

Summary:

All testifiers filled out comment forms. However, they all requested confidentiality in their written forms. Most comments were about regulations in general, as opposed to enforcement One comment, in particular, was jurisdictional. It involved OSHA, IRS and FDA and allegations by the testifier that they have been targeted for excessive numbers of audits. The company, however, are extremely afraid of retaliation and chose to send its comments through Joan Schlueter, spokeswoman for the National Association of Women Business Owners